

FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT.

RESOLVES

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS,

RELATIVE TO

The Fugitive Slave Law.

APRIL 4, 1856.—Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE.

RESOLVES concerning the fugitive slave act of eighteen hundred and fifty.

Resolved, Inasmuch as there is neither any power granted to the general government in the constitution of the United States for the enactment of any law by Congress for the return of alleged fugitive slaves, nor any prohibition therein to the States against the passage of laws upon that subject, that the fugitive slave act is a direct violation of the tenth article of amendments to the constitution of the United States, which declares that "the powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Resolved, That our senators and representatives in Congress be requested to use all honorable means to secure the unconditional repeal of the fugitive slave act of 1850, which is hostile alike to the provisions of the national constitution and to the dictates of the Christian religion, an infraction equally of "the supreme law of the land," and of the "higher law" of God in consonance therewith.

Resolved, That his excellency the governor be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to each of the senators and representatives of Massachusetts in the Congress of the United States.

House of Representatives, April 3, 1855.—Passed.

DANIEL C. EDDY, *Speaker*.

In Senate, April 3, 1855.—Passed.

HENRY W. BENCHLEY, *President*.

Approved, April 6, 1855.

HENRY J. GARDNER.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Boston, April 20, 1855.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original.
Attest:

E. M. WRIGHT,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.